

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 00632 180524 Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 EUR-25 EB-11 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02

/163 W

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R 171320 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2002

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T SANAA 632

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, ET, SA, XF, PFOR

SUBJ: ACTIONS OF BENGAZI CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC
FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4021

1. DEP PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN RETURNED TO SANAA APRIL
15 AFTER ONE MONTH ABSENCE WHICH ENCOMPASSED VISITS TO
SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF ACCOMPANYING PRIMIN AL- HAJRI, AND
ATTENDANCE AT BENGAZI CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS. I REVIEWED RESULTS OF THIS TRIP IN CONVER-
SATION WITH NU' MAN APRIL 16. HE REFLECTED YAR SATIS-
FACTION WITH RIYADH DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY AND ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE FOR WHICH HE, LIKE PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI
EARLIER (SANAA 492) GAVE USG A GOOD MEASURE OF
CREDIT. HE NOTED YAR MILITARY ARE PARTICULARLY
PLEASED AT SAG DELIVERY, FOLLOWING RIYADH MEETINGS,
OF 23 T-54 TANKS ACQUIRED IN FALL 1972 FROM EGYPT.
TANKS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AND COME WITH AMPLE
SECRET

SECRET

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SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS.

2. HAVING IN MIND IEG FONMIN REMARKS OF PREVIOUS WEEK (REFTEL) RE ETHIOPIA' S ANNOYANCE AT PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS OF BENGAZI CONFERENCE, I ASKED ABOUT SEATING OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE. NU' MAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN ONLY ONE OBJECTION WHEN PROPOSAL PUT-- HIS OWN. NU' MAN CLAIMED THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR INSERTION IN RECORD OF STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT YAR COULD NOT APPROVE SEATING OF A DELEGATION REPRESENTING MOVEMENT CONDUCTING REBELLION AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF A COUNTRY YAR REGARDED AS A FRIEND. NU' MAN SAID HIS POSITION WAS CHALLENGED BY FATAH REPRESENTATIVE WHO ASSERTED NO ARAB STATE SHOULD REGARD ETHIOPIA AS A FRIEND IN VIEW ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. NO ONE ELSE SPOKE AND ELF DELEGATION WAS SEATED WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT.

3. I ASKED NU' MAN ABOUT INCLUSION IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF RESOLUTION (WE DO NOT HAVE TEXT) CONDEMNING ALLEGED ETHIOPIAN SANCTIONING OF ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE ON ETHIOPIAN RED SEA ISLANDS AND CALLING FOR COORDINATED ARAB ACTION TO ELIMINATE THIS ALLEGED PRESENCE. NU' MAN SAID FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN GLUED TOGETHER LATE ON FINAL NIGHT OF CONFERENCE LONG AFTER HE HAD GONE TO BED. HE TERMED THE WHOLE AFFAIR A " SILLY" EXERCISE IN MEANINGLESS PROPAGANDA.

4. AT DISCRETION, EMBASSY ADDIS MAY WISH PASS SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE TO FONOFF.
CRAWFORD

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: PFOR, ET, SA, XF, YE
To: ADDIS ABABA
BEIRUT
JIDDA
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
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